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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Research Administration
Bureau of Animal Industry

Turkey Improvement Program
of
The National Poultry Improvement Plan

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In 1937 a tentative turkey-improvement plan was developed by a National Turkey Improvement Committee. That plan was intended as a guide for State turkey-improvement work until such time as there was sufficient demand to justify the inclusion of a turkey-improvement program in the National Poultry Improvement Plan.

In 1941 the National Turkey Federation appointed a special committee to study State programs and to develop a turkey-improvement plan that could be applied throughout the country. The plan developed by the committee was presented at the 1943 annual meeting of the Federation and unanimously adopted by the general session.

The turkey-improvement program became operative September 25, 1943, with the approval of the Secretary of Agriculture and under authority of an appropriation made by Congress (Public Law 129 - 78th Congress, Chapter 215 - 1st Session H.R. 2481) for the Bureau of Animal Industry, United States Department of Agriculture, to be used in cooperation with State authorities in the administration of regulations for the improvement of poultry, poultry products, and hatcheries.

Acceptance of the turkey program will be optional with States and individual members of the industry within States. It will be administered in each State by an official State agency cooperating with the Bureau of Animal Industry, United States Department of Agriculture.

The program will require revision from time to time to conform with the development of the industry and with new information as it becomes available. Revisions will be considered at meetings of authorized representatives of the turkey breeders and hatcheries with representatives of the Bureau of Animal Industry.

The primary objectives of this project are to improve the production and market quality of turkeys and to reduce losses from pullorum disease. Through it turkey breeding stock, hatching eggs, and poults may be identified, authoritatively, with respect to breeding quality and degree of freedom from pullorum disease. The application of the provisions of the program should cause turkey production to be more efficient and thus aid in making the enterprise more profitable.

Proper Sanitation of Great Importance

Health is the foundation of successful husbandry, since upon it depends successful production and reproduction. Constitutional vigor and sanitation provide the best insurance against ill health. Every turkey grower and every hatcheryman, therefore, is under obligation to maintain the health of his market

and breeding stock, and to keep his premises in the best possible state of sanitation,

Turkeys should be maintained in pens or on ranges completely segregated from other poultry as an aid in the control of blackhead (enterohæmatitis), pullorum disease, and other diseases transmissible to turkeys. Turkey eggs should be incubated and hatched in separate incubators (preferably in separate rooms) from chicken eggs, and poults brooded in separate rooms from chicks to guard against the spread of pullorum and paratyphoid infection.

General Regulations

Regulation 1.--For the purpose of this plan the following words, phrases, names, and terms shall be construed, respectively, to mean--

Paragraph 1. Turkey plan.--The Turkey Improvement Program of the National Poultry Improvement Plan.

Par. 2. Official State agency.--The agency recognized by the Bureau of Animal Industry, United States Department of Agriculture, to cooperate in the administration of the turkey plan within the State. It may be the State department of agriculture, State college of agriculture, State turkey-improvement board or association, or other agency recognized officially by the State government. The official State agency for the National Poultry Improvement Plan when modified to include representatives of the turkey industry may logically be recognized as the official State agency for the turkey plan.

Par. 3. State inspector.--An employee of the official State agency or other agency recognized officially by the State government whose duties comprise the official inspection of flocks, eggs, poults, hatcheries, turkey premises, records, and methods employed in carrying on the work of the turkey plan.

Par. 4. Flock-selecting agent.--A person who has taken a course of training in and passed an examination on (1) the selection of turkey breeding stock according to standardbred and meat-production qualities prescribed by the State college of agriculture or other properly constituted State agency and (2) the turkey plan provisions as applied in the State, and who has been authorized by the official State agency to do flock-selecting work as provided for in the breeding stages of the turkey plan. During the war emergency, and to take care of individual cases only, the official State agency may, at its discretion, authorize flock-selecting agents who have not taken the specified course of training. Only those persons who have demonstrated to the official State agency through work in the field that they are capable of doing satisfactory selecting work, may be so authorized.

Par. 5. Blood collector.--A person who has been trained in the proper method of collecting blood samples for the pullorum disease test, who has passed an examination on the turkey plan provisions as applied in the State, and who has been authorized by the official State agency to do the blood-sampling work.

Par. 6. Eggs and hatching eggs.--Turkey eggs and turkey hatching eggs.

Par. 7. Baby poults.--Poults that have not been fed or watered.

Par. 8. Started poults.--Poults that have been fed or watered.

Par. 9. Breeding stock.--Turkeys that are to be used for breeding purposes.

Par. 10. Hatchery.--Hatching equipment operated or controlled by any person, firm, or corporation producing poults or poults and chicks for sale.

Par. 11. Turkey hatchery.--Hatching equipment operated or controlled by any person, firm, or corporation producing poults only (no chicks) for sale.

Par. 12. U.S.R.O.M.--U. S. Register of Merit.

Par. 13. Official label.--A label, secured through or approved by the official State agency, on which are indicated the product, the breeding stage, and the pullorum class.

Regulation 2.--The official State agency shall direct, supervise, and be responsible for flock selection, testing for pullorum disease, and all other administrative work as provided in the turkey plan.

Regulation 3.--All inspectors shall be authorized by the official State agency.

Regulation 4.--Turkey-breeding houses and pens shall be kept clean and in good condition. The land in the immediate vicinity of the turkey-breeding houses and pens shall be kept in sanitary condition.

Regulation 5.--Hatcheries and all incubator equipment shall be kept in strictly sanitary condition. All incubators must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected by spraying or fumigating after each hatch by means of an officially recognized method.

Regulation 6.--All eggs used in any breeding stage shall be sound in shell. Nonpedigreed hatching eggs shall be trayed and the poults boxed with a view to uniformity of size.

Regulation 7.--The management of a hatchery participating in the turkey plan shall maintain the identity of hatching eggs being incubated, including those being custom-hatched, and shall keep accurate records concerning the name and address of each flock owner; the number of eggs received from each flock owner; the name and address of each purchaser; the number, hatchery grade, if any, variety, and date of shipment of all poults. These records shall be open for official inspection at all times. Eggs received and poults hatched shall be subject to inspection at all times.

Regulation 8.--All poults shall be normal and representative of the variety.

Regulation 9.--Delivery of poults shall be made in approved types of poult boxes properly ventilated and securely tied, and poults shall be shipped to reach the ultimate purchaser within the time limit prescribed by the United States Postal Regulations.

Regulation 10.--Any person, firm, or corporation selling hatching eggs of a U.S. breeding stage or pullorum class shall sell hatching eggs from flocks which are under the supervision of the turkey plan only. Adequate records shall be kept and shall at all times be available to the official State agencies concerned. These records shall consist of names and addresses of all flock owners supplying hatching eggs, the number of females in each breeding flock, and the number of hatching eggs of each variety sold to each purchaser.

Regulation 11.--With the approval of the official State agency, crossbred hatching eggs and poults may be produced and sold by members operating under the turkey plan, provided the parent stock is selected and banded, and the flock is inspected as required in the U.S. Approved breeding stage. These flocks shall be designated as U.S. Approved Crossmated flocks. Hatching eggs or poults from such flocks shall be designated as U.S. Approved Crossbred hatching eggs or poults, with a descriptive phrase designating the variety of the toms and the variety of the hens used in the cross. (The variety of the tom shall be designated first in all crosses.)

Regulation 12.--When more than one hatchery located within a State is operated under the same ownership or management, one or more of these hatcheries may not participate in the turkey plan unless all of them participate. In the event that any person, firm, or corporation has nonparticipating hatcheries in other States no poults or turkey hatching eggs shall be shipped to the participating hatcheries from the non-participating hatcheries.

Regulation 13.--Breeding stock and each package of hatching eggs and each bundle of poults sold shall be officially labeled, except poults that are seconds, culls, rejects, or abnormal for variety characteristics (see Regulation 8).

Regulation 14.--All advertising must be in accord with the rules and regulations of the turkey plan and the Fair Trade Practice Rules of the Federal Trade Commission for the baby chick industry. Copies of proposed folders, catalogues, circulars, or other literature shall be submitted to and approved by the official State agency before being published. Copies of such literature, after being published, shall be filed with the official agency. Copies of all publication advertising shall be mailed to the official State agency at or before the time these advertisements are submitted to the publisher or publishers. The advertising of hatcheries which have places of business in more than one State shall be approved by the official State agency of the State in which the home office of the hatchery is located. Such advertising shall be checked by the Bureau of Animal Industry, United States Department of Agriculture, before being approve. (Refer also to regulation 17 for proper use of terms.)

Regulation 15.--The various designs illustrative of the breeding stages and pullorum classes may be used only by participants who have met the specified requirements.

Regulation 16.--Any person, firm, or corporation desiring to participate in the turkey plan shall sign an agreement with the official State agency and shall not purchase, receive, offer for sale, or be a dealer in or agent for breeding stock, hatching eggs, or poults other than those produced under the turkey plan, except with permission from the official State agency. In certain cases special permission may be granted by the official State agency, in writing, to purchase hatching eggs, poults, or breeding stock not produced under the turkey plan for use in breeding or hatching-egg supply flocks. In such cases a report shall be made to the official State agency on each shipment received and to whom delivered.

Regulation 17.--Flocks and hatcheries that have met the requirements of, and hatching eggs and poults that are produced under, both a breeding stage and pullorum class of the turkey plan shall be designated as follows:

- U.S. Approved, Pullorum-Tested
- U.S. Approved, Pullorum-Controlled
- U.S. Approved, Pullorum-Clean
- U.S. Certified, Pullorum-Tested
- U.S. Certified, Pullorum-Controlled
- U.S. Certified, Pullorum-Clean
- U.S.R.O.M., Pullorum-Tested
- U.S.R.O.M., Pullorum-Controlled
- U.S.R.O.M., Pullorum-Clean

Where descriptive terms are used in advertising, in addition to the official terminology of the turkey plan, such terms must be clearly explained.

Regulation 18.--Started poults must be labeled as such, and all the poults in each lot sold or offered for sale shall be of the same age (hatching date) unless otherwise specified.

Regulation 19.--With the approval of the official State agency, hatching-egg and poult dealers may participate in the turkey plan and enjoy all the privileges of participating hatcheries in the handling and selling of hatching eggs and poults, provided all the applicable requirements for participating hatcheries are fully and completely complied with:

Regulation 20.--Evidence of noncompliance with the provisions of the turkey plan that is established after thorough investigation and hearing to the satisfaction of the official State agency, and not corrected within a reasonable time, shall bar any participant from further participation for a period of two years.

Regulation 21.--Participation in one of the pullorum classes shall be a prerequisite to participation in any of the breeding stages of the plan, except that this regulation shall not apply in those States where it is impracticable for the official State agency to supply facilities for a proper test.

Regulation 22.--Participation in any phase of the turkey plan shall be construed as maintaining supervision and compliance throughout the twelve months of the year. (It is understood that a participant may withdraw from participation or that his agreement may be terminated by the official State agency for cause.)

ARTICLE 2. BREEDING STAGES

Section 1, U. S. Approved Breeding Stage

Paragraph 1.--U. S. Approved Flocks.--These flocks shall meet the following requirements: Toms and hens shall be carefully selected once each year for constitutional vigor and standardbred qualities to a reasonably high degree. Effective three years after a flock owner, breeder, or hatchery has started participation in this breeding stage, his U.S. Approved flocks shall be headed with toms from U. S. Certified flocks or U.S.R.O.M. matings. The following specifications shall be emphasized:

(a) Conformation: Body should be deep and relatively rectangular in shape, flesh of breast well developed, giving this region a rounded fullness, in contrast to sharp-keeled birds lacking in muscular development. The front point of the keel should be well fleshed and free from coarseness. The back should be flat and wide over its entire length. Leg bones should be sturdy, of medium length, and without coarseness. Normal turkey carriage or posture (body carried at an angle of 35 to 45 degrees from the horizontal) is important as is also sturdy, strong legs, squarely placed under the body.

(b) Shape of breastbone: Breastbone should be straight, relatively long, and parallel with the back. It should extend well up between the lower thighs (drumsticks) as the bird is suspended by the legs.

(c) Rate of maturity: Birds showing definite indications of late maturity shall not be approved.

(d) Weight: The following body weights by classes for the various varieties should be considered as minimums:

	: Small : varieties	: Standard varieties: : other than bronze	: Standard : Bronze	: Broad : Breasted : Bronze
	: Min. body : weight	: Min. body : weight	: Min. body : weight	: Min. body : weight
Adult tom	: 16 lbs. :	: 29 lbs. :	: 30 lbs. :	: 33 lbs. :
Yearling tom	: 15 lbs. :	: 25 lbs. :	: 28 lbs. :	: 30 lbs. :
Young tom (24 wks.)	: 10 lbs. :	: 14 lbs. :	: 16 lbs. :	: 18 lbs. :
Adult hen	: 10 lbs. :	: 16 lbs. :	: 18 lbs. :	: 20 lbs. :
Yearling hen	: 9 lbs. :	: 14 lbs. :	: 16 lbs. :	: 18 lbs. :
Young hen (24 wks.)	: 7 lbs. :	: 10 lbs. :	: 12 lbs. :	: 14 lbs. :

Par. 2.--The method of selecting turkey breeding stock for standardbred and meat-production qualities prescribed by the State college of agriculture or other properly constituted State agency shall serve as a basis for the selection of males and females. All birds to be used in U.S. Approved breeding flocks shall be selected by a State inspector or by a flock-selecting agent.

Par. 3.--All birds selected for U.S. Approved breeding flocks shall be banded at the time of selection, with sealed and numbered leg or wing bands obtained from the official State agency. Birds rejected by the State inspector or the flock-selecting agent shall have leg and wing bands removed, have their tails clipped for ready identification, and shall be kept separate from the breeding flocks. The selection of birds for U.S. Approved flocks shall be completed prior to March 1, and at least 30 days before any eggs are saved for hatching purposes, except that this 30-day interval shall not be required if all the toms found in the breeding flock are approved. No birds shall be selected and approved earlier than at 5 months of age.

Par. 4.--Before the individual flock from which it is proposed to sell U.S. Approved eggs or poults may be recognized as a U.S. Approved flock, it shall be inspected and approved by a State inspector. Before saving eggs for hatching, or offering for sale U.S. Approved eggs or poults of any one variety, all the hatchery flocks supplying eggs to the hatchery must be inspected and approved by the State inspector. The inspection of a flock by a State inspector shall consist in the physical examination by handling a sufficient number of toms and hens to satisfy him that the flock-selection work performed meets the requirements of the U. S. Approved breeding stage.

Par. 5.--No birds except those with official sealed and numbered leg or wing bands shall be allowed in the breeding flocks, and no toms shall be allowed with any other turkey hens of breeding age on the same premises except in U.S. Certified flocks or U.S.R.O.M. matings.

Par. 6.--Only one variety shall be kept on a farm unless, where more than one variety is kept, ample provisions has been made to keep these varieties and their eggs separate.

Par. 7.--U.S. Approved hatching eggs.--Such eggs shall come from U.S. Approved flocks or a higher U.S. breeding stage.

Par. 8.--U.S. Approved poults.--They shall be hatched from U. S. Approved hatching eggs and in U.S. Approved hatcheries.

Par. 9.-- U.S. Approved hatcheries.--These hatcheries shall be inspected by a State inspector at least twice during the hatching season. The management shall keep accurate record concerning the name and address of each flock owner; the number of eggs received from each flock owner; name and address of each purchaser; and the number, variety, and date of shipment of all hatching eggs and poults. These records shall be open for official inspection at all times. Eggs received and poults hatched shall be subject to inspection at all times. U.S. Approved hatcheries may hatch for sale and sell both U.S. Approved and U.S. Certified poults of the same variety, provided adequate segregation of eggs and poults is practiced and ample records are kept to satisfy the official State agency that there is no mixing or interchanging from one breeding stage to another.

Section 2, U. S. Certified Breeding Stage

Paragraph 1.--U.S. Certified flock matings.--These flocks shall fulfill all the requirements of the U.S. Approved flocks and shall be free from disqualifications. The hens shall be mated to sons of U.S. Register of Merit matings. Once each year the toms shall be selected by a State inspector and the hens by a State inspector or specially authorized flock-selecting agent. All flocks shall be inspected by a State inspector at least once during the breeding season. After the second year of U.S. Certified breeding work on any farm, hens to be used as breeders shall be from U.S. Certified or U.S.R.O.M. matings.

Par. 2.--U.S. Certified single-tom pen matings (non-trap-nest).--These matings consist of U.S. Approved hens or hens of a higher breeding stage mated to a son of a U.S.R.O.M. mating. To make it possible for a breeder to get started in U.S. Certified breeding work within his own strain, U.S. Approved toms of outstanding quality may be used to head the single-tom mating during the first two years of breeding work on his farm. Until such time as these matings are headed by sons of U.S.R.O.M. matings, hatching eggs or poults shall be sold only as U.S. Approved.

(a) Only one tom shall be allowed in a breeding pen and the date of entry and removal of the tom and each hen shall be properly recorded and reported to the official State agency. The tom shall be considered a U.S.R.O.M. candidate tom until he qualifies for U.S.R.O.M. as designated in Paragraph 5 of Section 3. After this qualification the progeny from the candidate tom shall be considered as coming from a U.S.R.O.M. mating.

(b) For each breeding pen, an accurate daily record shall be kept of all eggs laid during the breeding season; and a weekly record shall be kept of the number of eggs sold, the number of eggs incubated, and the total number of good poults hatched and banded. Not later than the tenth of each month during the breeding season, a copy of all egg-production records of the previous month shall be sent to the official State agency. Each egg shall be marked with the letter or number of the pen.

(c) The poults from each pen shall be kept separate at hatching time and shall be banded individually at the time of removal from the hatching trays with official sealed and numbered wing bands. These wing bands shall be marked "CT" in addition to the band number to indicate that poults so banded are the progeny of a candidate tom. An accurate record of all poults banded shall be furnished the official State agency within five days after the date of the hatch. The poults shall be subject in inspection at any time. The bands from dead poults shall be retained for the information of the inspector and shall be delivered upon request.

(d) These matings shall be inspected at least twice during the breeding season by a State inspector.

Par. 3.--U.S. Certified single-tom (trap-nest) matings.--These matings consist of U.S. Approved hens or hens of a higher breeding stage mated to a son of a U.S.R.O.M. mating. For the first two years of U.S. Certified breeding work on any farm, an outstanding U.S. Approved tom may be used, but until such time as these pens are headed by sons of U.S.R.O.M. matings, hatching eggs and poults shall be sold only as U.S. Approved.

(a) Only one tom shall be allowed in a breeding pen and the date of entry and removal of the tom and each hen shall be properly recorded and reported to the official State agency.

(b) The toms and hens shall be considered U.S.R.O.M. candidates until they qualify as provided in Paragraphs 5 and 6, respectively, of Section 3. After this qualification the progeny of either the candidate tom or candidate hen, whichever qualifies, shall be considered as coming from a U.S.R.O.M. mating.

(c) For each breeding pen and for each hen in the breeding pen, an accurate daily trap-nest record shall be kept of all eggs laid during the breeding season and weekly record of the number of eggs sold, the number of eggs incubated and the number of good poults hatched and banded. Not later than the tenth of each month during the breeding season, a copy of all egg-production records of the previous month shall be sent to the official State agency. Each egg shall be marked with the letter or number of the pen and the number of the hen that laid it.

(d) The poults from each hen shall be kept separate at hatching time and shall be banded individually at the time of removal from the hatching trays with official sealed and numbered wing bands. These wing bands shall be marked "CP" in addition to the band number to indicate that the poults so banded are full pedigreed progeny from a U.S.R.O.M. candidate tom and hen. An accurate record of all poults banded shall be furnished the official State agency within five days after the date of the hatch. The poults shall be subject to inspection at any time. The bands from dead poults shall be retained for the information of the inspector and shall be delivered upon request.

(e) These flocks shall be inspected at least twice during the breeding season by a State inspector.

Par. 4.--U.S. Certified hatching eggs.--Such eggs shall come from U.S. Certified matings.

Par. 5.--U.S. Certified poults.--They shall be hatched from U.S. Certified eggs and in U.S. Certified hatcheries or in U.S. Approved hatcheries. When hatched in U.S. Approved hatcheries adequate segregation of eggs and poults must be provided and ample records must be kept to satisfy the official State agency that there is no mixing or interchanging from one breeding stage to another.

Par. 6.-- U.S. Certified hatcheries.--These hatcheries may hatch for sale or sell U.S. Certified eggs or poults and eggs and poults from U.S.R.O.M. matings only. They shall fulfill all the requirements of U.S. Approved hatcheries and shall be inspected by a State inspector at least twice during the hatching season.

Section 3, U.S.R.O.M. Breeding State

Paragraph 1.--This breeding stage embraces individual and family records of egg production, fertility, viability, and market quality of the progeny made on the breeder's premises under official supervision. Provision is made for the recognition of family breeding and progeny testing of U.S. Certified matings with or without trap-nesting. The objective of this stage is the production of toms for use in heading U.S. Certified matings.

Par. 2.--U.S.R.O.M. matings.--These matings may consist of:

- (a) U.S.R.O.M. tom mated to the same hens with which he qualified; or
- (b) U.S.R.O.M. hen mated to the same tom with which she qualified; or
- (c) U.S.R.O.M. tom mated to the same U.S.R.O.M. hens with which he qualified.

Par. 3.--Poults from U.S.R.O.M. matings.--These poults shall be hatched as provided in Section 2, Paragraph 2, item (c), or Paragraph 3, item (d) of the U.S. Certified stage, but shall have wing bands lettered as follows:

"U.S.R.O.M.-T" for those produced from matings described in item (a) in Paragraph 2 above.

"U.S.R.O.M.-H" for those produced from matings described in item (b) in Paragraph 2 above.

"U.S.R.O.M.-TH" for those produced from matings described in item (c) in Paragraph 2 above.

Par. 4.--Young toms from U.S.R.O.M. candidate toms or hens.--The young toms from U.S. Certified single-tom matings shall be considered as sons of U.S.R.O.M. matings after the parent tom or hen qualifies for U.S.R.O.M.

Par. 5.--In order to qualify to head U.S. Certified matings, a son of a U.S.R.O.M. mating shall have passed the inspection of a State inspector not earlier than at 24 weeks of age, and shall be banded with an official sealed and numbered leg band. These leg bands shall be lettered "U.S.Cert.-TS", "U.S.Cert.-HS", or "U.S.Cert.-TH S" to indicate that the tom so banded is the son of a U.S.R.O.M. tom, a U.S.R.O.M. hen, or both a U.S.R.O.M. tom and U.S.R.O.M. hen. At the time of inspection he shall indicate strong vigor, shall show, upon handling, excellent body conformation and fleshing, and shall be an excellent representative of the variety.

At the time of inspection and banding, the inspector shall make a complete record of the wing and leg-band numbers of each tom banded.

Par. 6.--U.S.R.O.M. tom.--Toms, when mated as in Section 2, Par. 2 or 3, shall qualify for U.S.R.O.M. when the following requirements are met:

(a) Sixty-five percent or more of all eggs shall be set from the pen. An average of at least 20 eggs per female in the breeding pen, and a minimum of 200 eggs from each pen shall be set.

(b) The minimum number of turkeys raised to market age shall be 85 percent of all poults started, and at least 100 turkeys from each pen shall be raised to the time of the fall inspection.

(c) Each bird raised to market age shall be carefully examined prior to 26 weeks of age by a State inspector or authorized agent of the official State agency. At the time of inspection, at least 60 percent of all young tom progeny and at least 80 percent of all young hen progeny shall be of U.S. Prime market quality, except for pinfeather, fattening, and dressing requirements, provided a minimum of 70 turkeys from each breeding pen meet those requirements.

(d) Having met these requirements the tom may be banded by a State inspector with an official sealed and numbered leg band lettered "U.S.R.O.M."

Par. 7.--U.S.R.O.M. hen.--She shall, on initial inspection, indicate strong vigor and excellent body conformation and fleshing condition, shall be an excellent representative of the variety, shall have been trap-nested under official supervision 13 consecutive weeks, and shall have met the requirements in (a) or (b) below:

(a) She shall produce at the rate of 50 percent from date of first egg in trap nest for 13 consecutive weeks, hatch 70 percent of all eggs set and a minimum of 25 good poults, and raise a minimum of 20 poults to 5 months of age. Sixty percent of all young tom progeny and 80 percent of all young hen progeny shall be of U.S. Prime market quality, except for pinfeather, fattening, and dressing requirements, provided a minimum of 15 poults meet these requirements.

(b) She shall produce at the rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$ poults per week for 13 consecutive weeks, a minimum of 20 of which are alive at 5 months of age. Sixty percent of all young tom progeny and 80 percent of all young hen progeny shall be of U.S. Prime market quality, except for pinfeather, fattening, and dressing requirements.

(c) Having met the requirements in (a) or (b) the hen may be banded by a State inspector with an official sealed and numbered leg band lettered "U.S.R.O.M."

ARTICLE 3. PULLORUM CLASSES

The aim or goal in an official pullorum-disease-testing program for turkeys should be eradication rather than mere control of the disease. To that end every possible step should be taken not only to eradicate infected birds from the breeding flocks, but also to eliminate all possible or probable avenues of infection for adult breeding stock, poults, and growing birds. Complete segregation of turkeys from chickens on the farm and in hatcheries at all stages of development, and during all seasons of the year is urgently recommended.

The stained-antigen, rapid, whole-blood test as currently used for the control of pullorum disease in chickens has not been found dependable for turkeys. Therefore, for the present time and until some other dependable test for turkeys has been developed, only the standard tube agglutination method of testing will be officially recognized.

Section 1. General Provisions

Paragraph 1.--Matters relating to disease shall be under the direction of the livestock sanitary authorities or officials of the State college of agriculture or similarly authorized State agency of the respective States in cooperation with the Bureau of Animal Industry, United States Department of Agriculture. The official State agency shall assume responsibility for the accuracy of the pullorum testing work.

Par. 2.--The official test for pullorum disease in the turkey plan shall be the standard tube agglutination test, as described in the Proceedings of the United States Live Stock Sanitary Association, November 30 to December 2, 1932, pages 487-491, and in the appendix of U.S.D.A. Miscellaneous Publication No. 300. This paragraph shall be amended to include other tests as soon as such other tests are determined proper by the Bureau of Animal Industry, United States Department of Agriculture.

Par. 3.--In conducting an official pullorum-disease program with turkeys, all turkeys to be used as breeders shall be segregated from any other poultry on the same farm for a period of at least 20 days before the first test is made.

Par. 4.--In testing for pullorum disease, blood samples shall be drawn by an authorized blood collector and the testing shall be done in a laboratory recognized and approved by the official State agency.

Par. 5.--All pullorum tests of flocks in any pullorum class or candidates for any class must be reported to the official State agency, and reactors occurring in unofficial tests shall be considered on the same basis as reactors in official tests.

Par. 6.-- All new breeding stock (except birds directly transferred between breeders of the same pullorum class) and stock returned to the breeder's farm from exhibits, tests, etc., must be quarantined at considerable distance from the other turkey stock. Such birds must be kept in quarantine for at least 20 days and then officially tested before being added to the flock.

Par. 7.--In the event that tests to qualify a flock for U.S. Pullorum-Clean reveal not over one-half of 1 percent reactors or not to exceed 6 birds, the owner shall have the right to submit all the reactors to the laboratory conducting the official test for autopsy and bacteriological examination, and in case such bacteriological examination fails to reveal any conclusive evidence of pullorum infection the flock shall be considered as having had no reactors.

Par. 8.--The custom-hatching of eggs from non-U.S. Pullorum-Tested flocks is permitted in U.S. Pullorum-Tested hatcheries, provided the incubation and hatching of such eggs are done in a separate room. The custom-hatching of eggs from flocks of a lower pullorum class than U.S. Pullorum-Controlled is not permitted on the premises of a U.S. Pullorum-Controlled hatchery. The custom-hatching of eggs from flocks of a lower pullorum class than U.S. Pullorum-Clean is not permitted on the premises of a U.S. Pullorum-Clean hatchery.

Par. 9.--In separating a room for the use of two or more incubators, to provide for custom-hatching, a tight partition is absolutely necessary and must be provided. Outside ventilation and an outside entry for each room are required. Any door or opening between the two rooms must be sealed, as by weatherstripping and locking, or by battening the cracks around the door in the room where eggs from non-U.S. Pullorum-Tested flocks are being incubated or hatched.

Section 2, U.S. Pullorum-Tested Class

Par. 1.--This class which permits a certain reactor tolerance is made a part of the plan as a recognition that the initial step has been taken toward an eradication program. Under existing conditions in many sections of the country a tolerance class seems necessary in the developmental stage of an official turkey-testing program. No breeder should be content with having qualified his flock for this class only. Control measures should be practiced continuously with a view to reducing the percentage of reactors each year and qualifying for the U.S. Pullorum-Controlled class and then the U.S. Pullorum-Clean class as soon as possible.

Par. 2.--U.S. Pullorum-Tested flocks.--These flocks shall meet the following requirements:

(a) All turkeys to be used as breeders shall be tested for pullorum disease when more than 4 months of age under the supervision of an official State agency, and shall contain fewer than 5 percent reactors in 1943-44, fewer than 4 percent in 1944-45, fewer than 3 percent in 1945-46, and fewer than 2 percent in 1946-47 and following years, the last test being made within

6 months immediately preceeding the date of first sale of hatching eggs, poults, or breeding stock from such flocks.

(b) All indicated carriers of pullorum disease shall be removed from the premises on completion of the test and disposed of in a manner satisfactory to the official State agency.

(c) All birds remaining in the breeding flock shall be properly leg- or wing-banded.

(d) Individual birds introduced into U.S. Pullorum-Tested flocks shall have passed, within 6 months, a negative official test for pullorum disease.

(e) All other poultry on the same premises must be completely segregated from the turkeys in a manner satisfactory to the official State agency. If deemed necessary by the official State agency all other poultry shall be tested for pullorum disease by an approved method and shall have no more reactors on the final test than that percentage acceptable for turkeys. All indicated carriers of pullorum disease shall be removed from the premises upon completion of the test and disposed of in a manner satisfactory to the official State agency. Where such testing is required official classification of the turkey flock shall be withheld until the qualifying test of the other poultry has been completed.

Par. 3.--A flock containing 5 percent or more of reactors on the first test in 1943-44, 4 percent or more in 1944-45, 3 percent or more in 1945-46, and 2 percent or more in 1946-47 and following years, on being re-tested at intervals of not less than 30 days, and all reactors removed after each test until the percentage of reactors is less than that designated for the particular year, may qualify as a U.S. Pullorum-Tested flock.

Par. 4.--U.S. Pullorum-Tested hatching eggs.--Such eggs are from U.S. Pullorum-Tested flocks.

Par. 5.--U.S. Pullorum-Tested poults.--These are hatched from eggs produced by U.S. Pullorum-Tested, U.S. Pullorum-Controlled, or U.S. Pullorum-Clean flocks in the U.S. Pullorum-Tested hatchery.

Par. 6.--U.S. Pullorum-Tested hatcheries.--These hatcheries operate under the supervision of an official State agency and hatch turkey eggs and brood poults from U.S. Pullorum-Tested, U.S. Pullorum-Controlled, or U.S. Pullorum-Clean flocks. Chicken eggs may be incubated in the same incubator with turkey eggs and chicks may be brooded in the same room with poults, provided they are of a similar or higher official pullorum classification. Effective September 1, 1946, chicken eggs shall not be incubated in the same incubator with turkey eggs and chicks shall not be brooded in the same room with poults.

Section 3, U. S. Pullorum-Controlled Class

Paragraph 1.--This class which embodies the recognition of infected premises permits no tolerance in the official recognition of the flock. It emphasizes the advisability of retesting at frequent intervals until no reactors are found and, therefore, is believed to be a more effective step toward eradication than is the pullorum-tested class. As is stated in Paragraph 1 of Section 2, however, no breeder should be content with having qualified his flock for this class. Control measures should be practiced continuously with a view to eliminating all infection and qualifying for the U.S. Pullorum-Clean class as soon as possible.

Par. 2.--U.S. Pullorum-Controlled flocks.--These flocks shall meet the following requirements:

(a) All turkeys to be used as breeders shall be tested for pullorum disease when more than 4 months of age under the supervision of an official State agency, the last test being made within 6 months immediately preceding the date of first sale of hatching eggs, poults, or breeding stock from such flock. If any reactors are found on the first test, the flock may qualify for U.S. Pullorum-Controlled provided the provisions of Plan I or Plan II below are met:

Plan I.

1. All reacting pens are sold for market purposes or are segregated to the satisfaction of the official State agency to fatten for market.

2. Nonreacting pens are retested at least 3 weeks after the sale or segregation of the reacting pens and must be found to be without reactors in order to qualify.

Plan II

1. All individual reactors are immediately removed and sold for market purposes.

2. All infected pens are retested at 30-day intervals until one negative test is obtained.

3. The entire breeding flock must be retested 14 or more days after such negative test and must be found to be without reactors in order to qualify.

(b) All birds remaining in the breeding flock shall be properly leg- or wing-banded.

(c) Individual birds introduced into U.S. Pullorum-Controlled flocks shall come from U.S. Pullorum-Controlled or U.S. Pullorum-Clean flocks, except that individual birds from other sources may be introduced provided they are isolated for 20 days, then officially tested for pullorum disease

and found to be negative.

(d) All other poultry on the same premises must be completely segregated from the turkeys in a manner satisfactory to the official State agency. If deemed necessary by the official State agency all other poultry shall be tested for pullorum disease by an approved method at intervals of not less than 30 days and shall contain no reactors on the last test. All indicated carriers of pullorum disease shall be removed from the premises upon completion of the test and disposed of in a manner satisfactory to the official State agency. Where such testing is required official classification of the turkey flock shall be withheld until the qualifying test of the other poultry has been completed.

Par. 3.--U.S. Pullorum-Controlled hatching eggs.--Such eggs are from U.S. Pullorum-Controlled flocks.

Par. 4.--U.S. Pullorum-Controlled poults.--These are hatched from eggs produced by U.S. Pullorum-Controlled or U.S. Pullorum-Clean flocks in U.S. Pullorum-Controlled hatcheries.

Par. 5.--U.S. Pullorum-Controlled hatcheries.--These hatcheries operate under the supervision of an official State agency and hatch eggs and brood poults from U.S. Pullorum-Controlled or U.S. Pullorum-Clean flocks. Chicken eggs may not be incubated in the same machine or same room with U.S. Pullorum-Controlled turkey eggs. Chicks may not be brooded in the same room with U.S. Pullorum-Controlled poults.

Section 4, U.S. Pullorum-Clean Class

Paragraph 1.--U.S. Pullorum-Clean flocks.--These flocks shall meet the following requirements:

(a) All turkeys to be used as breeders shall be tested for pullorum disease when more than 4 months of age under the supervision of an official State agency and shall contain no reactors. This test shall be made within 6 months immediately preceding the date of first sale of hatching eggs, poults, or breeding stock from such flock.

(b) For a flock to qualify as a U.S. Pullorum-Clean flock all other poultry on the same premises shall either qualify for a pullorum classification similar to U.S. Pullorum-Clean of the National Poultry Improvement Plan or must be completely segregated from the turkeys in a manner satisfactory to the official State agency.

Par. 2.--If not more than 0.5 percent of a flock and, in any case, not more than 6 birds in the flock, which in a previous year or years had a U.S. Pullorum-Clean rating, are found to be positive on any test for pullorum disease, a retest of all birds to be used as breeders may be made at the discretion of the official State agency not earlier than 30 days or later than 6 weeks after the first test. If the retest reveals no reactors the flock may again be declared to be U.S. Pullorum-Clean.

Par. 3.--Individual birds introduced into U.S. Pullorum-Clean flocks shall come from U.S. Pullorum-Clean flocks, except that individual birds from other sources may be introduced provided they are isolated for 20 days, then officially tested for pullorum disease and found to be negative.

Par. 4.--Flocks of this classification shall be designated as having been U.S. Pullorum-Clean for 1, 2, 3, etc. years.

Par. 5.--U.S. Pullorum-Clean hatching eggs.--Such eggs shall come from U.S. Pullorum-Clean flocks.

Par. 6.--U.S. Pullorum-Clean poults.--These are hatched in a U.S. Pullorum-Clean hatchery from eggs produced by U.S. Pullorum-Clean flocks.

Par. 7.--U.S. Pullorum-Clean hatcheries.--These hatcheries operate under the supervision of an official State agency and hatch turkey eggs and brood poults from U.S. Pullorum-Clean flocks only.

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